| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5. | Rallivagu Reservoir | Medium | Rallivagu/ Godavari | Adilabad | 9/2001 | 2.430 | 26.75 |
| 6. | Nilwai Reservoir | Medium | Peddavagu/ Godavari | Adilabad | 9/2001 | 5.260 | 48.90 |
| 7. | Peddagedda Reservoir Project | Medium | Vegavati/ Nagavali | Vizianaga-ram | 01/2002 | 4.858 | 3.211 |
| 8. | Janihavathi Project | Medium | Janjhavathi/ Nagavali | Viziana-garam | 01/2002 | — | 121.0 |
| 9. | Mathadibagu | Medium | Mathadi-bagu/ Godavari | Adilabad | 5/5/2002 | 3.44 | 2.644 |
| 10. | Tarakarma Thirtha Sagaram Res. Scheme | Medium | Champa-vathi/ East Flowing River | Viziana-nagarh | 8/2002 | 10/ | 255.46 |
| 11. | Musurumilli Res. Project | Medium | Papagani/ Pennar | Seetha-pallivagu/ Godavari | March 2003 | 13.961 | 167.35 |

**White paper on River Linking Project**

1011. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that engineers, environmentalists, former bureaucrats, scientists, academicians etc., have written to Government for a white paper on the proposed inter-linking of rivers in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the memorandum submitted to Government;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the proposed linking of rivers required more power than it will generate; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESORUCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Some engineers, environments, former bureaucrats, scientists, academicians

etc., have addressed a letter to Hon'ble Prime Minister and impressed that the project for the linking of rivers, needs careful reconsideration before proceeding ahead in the matter. In the Memorandum enclosed with their letter they have also set forth the reasons for such a reconsideration. Conclusions as listed in Memorandum are given in the attached statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The linking proposals under Himalayan and Peninsular Components of National Perspective Plan envisage generation of about 34,000 MW of power. Against this, the requirement of power for lifting of water into the link canals is about 4,2000 MW only, as per the prefeasibility studies carried out by National Water Development Agency.

***Statement***

***Conclusion as listed in Memorandum***

We must hope that the Task Force will consider not merely the 'modalities' of the 'linking of rivers' but also all the questions raised above. Any headlong rush in the pursuit of this chimera will be disastrous. Specifically, the following suggestions are placed before the Task Force and the Ministry:

* Take people into confidence as to what the Government plans to do, publish a White Paper;

* make the National Commission's Report (1999) as well as the various studies and pre-feasibility and feasibility reports of the NWDA widely and easily available to the public;

* hold hearings, invite comments; make the declared commitment to the principles of 'people's participation' and 'stakeholder consultation' real;

* hold discussion with knowledgeable people and institutions outside the Government (economists, engineers, geographers, ecologists, socialogists, agricultural scientists, scholars and institutions concerned with water, agriculture, irrigation, and problems of rain-fed areas or arid zones, management specialists, development studies institutions, voluntary agencies and other civil society institutions, and so on) and pay serious attention to their questions and apprehensions;

* instead of starting from an a *priori* proposition about the linking of rivers, proceed from the water needs of each areas, consider all the available options, and choose the best;

* focus on efficient, harmonious sustainable intra-basin water management first before thinking of importing external water, reach the stage of basin-planning before considering inter-basin transfers;

* where a river-linking or long-distance water-transfer proposal seems *prima facie* worth considering, get a thorough, professional feasibility report prepared in a fully inter-disciplinary manner, internalizing not techno-economic but also environmental, human, social, equity, 'gender' and other relevant aspects and concerns, and put it through a comprehensive, inter-disciplinary, rigorous and stringent process of detailed examination, appraisal and approval;

* let such a project or projects emerge from and be an integral part of the planning process, rather than be foisted on that process and pre-empt attention and resources from necessary and urgent activities; and

* take up "on a war-footing" (in the Prime Minister's words) a national project of extensive, community-led rainwater-harvesting (wherever feasible) and watershed development, as also of the revival and re-activation of tranditional systems of water harvesting, conservation and management (tanks, ahars and pynes, johads, etc.), in pursuance of the Prime Minister's clarion call at the meetting of the NWRC on 1 April 2002.

**Revision of National Water Policy**

1012. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed and revised the National Water Policy to incorporate the goal of inter-linking of national rivers; and